

Subject: glowbugs V1 #141

glowbugs

Thursday, October 23 1997

Volume 01 : Number 141

Date:

From:

Subject: [none]

Date:

From:

Subject: [none]

Date:

From:

Subject: [none]

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 09:22:53 -0400 (EDT)

From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu

Subject: Re: SAFETY AROUND BREADBOARD RIGS

> Hi, Bob!

>

> H'mmm...I have to admit, I cathode-key rigs with 450V on the plates,
> and with the key open, that's about what's on the "hot" side.

I measured Grandma Hartley last night. She runs a TCS mg set as her power supply from a 12V battery bus in the shack. The KEY UP voltage was 375 volts across the key contacts on the high side of the keying relay. That is a little higher than I remembered, but it requires a relay.

I still think a keying relay of any sort well worth the protection when those kinds of voltages could be present on the key. Almost anything will work, even old 110vac relays with 28vdc to power them (many will work fine at hand keying speeds dc powered at 28vdc). An auto horn relay will work. Surplus can relays and octal relays are quite common in 12/24 vdc rating. All of them will work at the usual BA/GB QRS. You need to hunt a bit for one that will QRQ 35 and better, though, and sometimes resort to preloading the relay with a few ufd of capacitor across its coil as a booster to speed it along, inertia-wise.

> Most straight keys aren't too bad--but I have to remind myself not to
> fiddle with adjustments on the bugs with the HV on!

Yes, that can zap the gemittenfingerpokins. I err on the side favoring my hind end anymore. I got bit by Big Bertha Radiomarine, during some initial testing about 20 years back. But for the graces and some luck I should have been pushing up daisy flowers somewhere. I still take a deep breath when working on her opened up when she has her 1500vdc line on. Her keying relay has about 150 volts on it on the high side, about 3 inches away from the HV bus. When adjusting her relay contacts for QRQ, one needs to be real careful on the screwdriver placement and not drink too much coffee.....

> It probably is time to invest in a keying relay--hate to add one more
> power-supply to the pile, though.

Methinks around Hartleys and open breadboard sets it might be worthwhile.

> 73,
> --Bobbi

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

p.s. I had Grandma Hartley on last night and worked some OT's up NJ way, but nil BA/GB folks. Must be the weather..... I did hear Dennis W5FRS on down in the bilges of the tv oscillator noise, but little else.

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 09:36:49 -0400 (EDT)
From: afpgreg@state.me.us (Paul V. Gregory)
Subject: Re: SAFETY AROUND BREADBOARD RIGS

Ahoy,

I use a 12vdc octal-plugged mercury wetted relay to key my Valiant. Driven by a wallwart, it's simple, cheap. I could french-kiss my bug is I ever was so inclined.

--N1ZRR, Paul
ZUT

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 09:45:37 -0400 (EDT)
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
Subject: Re: '32 Detector and 2 Step --- HURRHAHHHHHH!!!!

> I finished up my regenerator of the month yesterday, since I had to jump on
> a plane, today, for a 2 week trip to the Phillipines and China.

etc.....

> It works very, very well!

Kudos! Walt.... you have done well. I hope others will learn from your success and wade through the junque boxen and get their gemittenfingerpokin a'workin'.

See, there is some fine howdydoo in them thar ``ancient'' and venerable regeneratorwhatzits.....(:+)}..... Sillysandystate move over!
Da Glowwebugges has arrived!

I sense an OT Hartley/Regenerator Friendly Fist Function Fracas in the works.
I vote the month of December. Howsabout ya'all....

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 10:14:54 -0400 (EDT)
From: **rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu**
Subject: **Thoughts on the 3579R545 QRG**

I was doin' some o' that thar a'thinin' last nite, in the wee small hours, when playin' wid Grandma Hartley, about the state of the 3579R545 QRG. That is a fine frequency for general use, but is problematic with the TV oscillator hash (even I have it when Ma puts her soapies an' games on in the evening). Wid 3 tv hash generators goin' in da QTH, things get a tad noisy. I tried the suggestion of the Computerese Ferrite Blocko Tricko, and that worked some, but did not completely quiet things. I was thinkin' of mebbie rubberin' down the QRG a tad so that we could makes use of about 3578R500 to 3579R545 to edge out from under da tv hash. Those of us wid Hartleys and otherwise erstwhile frequency agile devices can twiddle the knob down a touch. For those wid tvrocco devices, mebbie a tad o' capacitatories across the tvrocco would rubber it down a bit. Food for thought.

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

p.s. After Ma an' da kids gets ta beddiebyes, that thar tvrocco QRG quiets down real fine like, around midnite local. All hands note that a midnite ralleye o' da crew is perfectly acceptable, too, on weekends an' da like whens we can plays a little later.....(:+)}.....

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 11:27:01 -0400 (EDT)
From: **rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu**
Subject: **Anyone around for 3579 tonite?**

I will bite the ol' leaden bullete betwixt de ol' choppers an' offer to be on the BA/GB QRG 3579 QTR 0000/0100/0200/0300/0400/0500Z tonite an see if anyone can hear Ol' Grandma Hartley. I will lean on the dial a tad to slip a few hundred cycles low to get out from the tv hash. Mebbies me gets lucky, tonite, mebbie..... 73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

Thought.... ifs me beats Grandma Hartley around 700 cycles low against

da tv hash, wilst she sound like an ol' sparker on a fine
carborundum crystal set????? (:+}}...

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 09:52:26 -0700 (PDT)
From: Ken Gordon <keng@uidaho.edu>
Subject: Re: Thoughts on the 3579R545 QRG

> makes use of about 3578R500 to 3579R545 to edge out from under da tv hash.

Actually, in my HW-16, with a TV rock, I am about 500 cps HIGHER than the TV set garbage. And I hear several TV sets, NOT in my own house, until quite late. I managed to (finally) pick Jack W7QQQ out from between the TV noise one recent evening. I think he was BETWEEN the two loudest ones.

Ken

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 09:56:39 -0700 (PDT)
From: Ken Gordon <keng@uidaho.edu>
Subject: Re: Anyone around for 3579 tonite?

On Wed, 22 Oct 1997 rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu wrote:

> I will bite the ol' leaden bullete betwixt de ol' choppers an' offer to
> be on the BA/GB QRG 3579 QTR 0000/0100/0200/0300/0400/0500Z tonite an see
> if anyone can hear Ol' Grandma Hartley. I will lean on the dial a tad
> to slip a few hundred cycles low to get out from the tv hash. Mebbies
> me gets lucky, tonite, mebbie..... 73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

I'll try to see you there...

Ken

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 10:52:28 -0600 (MDT)
From: Art Winterbauer <art@comet.ucar.edu>
Subject: Re: Thoughts on the 3579R545 QRG

On Wed, 22 Oct 1997, Ken Gordon wrote:

>> makes use of about 3578R500 to 3579R545 to edge out from under da tv hash.
>

>Actually, in my HW-16, with a TV rock, I am about 500 cps HIGHER than the
>TV set garbage. And I hear several TV sets, NOT in my own house, until
>quite late. I managed to (finally) pick Jack W7QQQ out from between the TV
>noise one recent evening. I think he was BETWEEN the two loudest ones.

>
>Ken
>

On the other hand, that TV hash makes a good marker signal on my regen until the tubes & batteries stabilize (~20 minutes). If the regen control has to be re-adjusted (with subsequent change in signal tuning), I just search for the hash! My neighbors must watch a lot of TV. And it must be cable, since there've been no complains re: the regen or the 6L6 thrasher! --Art WA5OES

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 17:09:51 +0000
From: Sandy W5TVW <ebjr@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Re: Anyone around for 3579 tonite?

At 03:27 PM 10/22/97 +0000, you wrote:

>I will bite the ol' leaden bullete betwixt de ol' choppers an' offer to
>be on the BA/GB QRG 3579 QTR 0000/0100/0200/0300/0400/0500Z tonite an see
>if anyone can hear Ol' Grandma Hartley. I will lean on the dial a tad
>to slip a few hundred cycles low to get out from the tv hash. Mebbies
>me gets lucky, tonite, mebbie..... 73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP
>
>Thought.... ifs me beats Grandma Hartley around 700 cycles low against
>da tv hash, wilst she sound like an ol' sparker on a fine
>carborundum crystal set????? (:+}})...
>
>

I'll listen up a little later tonight. Remember that STANDARD time is coming!

80 will improve more once we get rid of this Daylight time nonsense.

I agree we should maybe try 3679.0 and tune up for the rock bound folk who can't move the 1/2 khz.

If anyone hears me batting the breeze with my neighbor, K1DW about 50 miles away, don't hesitate to "break" in!

Dallas, K1DW and I had dinner/reunion with some of our mentors who are really in the "olde phart club". When he settles in his house in Folsom, LA (he moved from Hartford, CT!), he plans some awesome antennas on his 5+ acres.

73,
E. V. Sandy Blaize, W5TVW
"Boat Anchors collected, restored, repaired, traded and used!"
417 Ridgewood Drive
Metairie, LA., 70001

860 Hartley 'ECO' under construction**

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 14:39:15 -0400 (EDT)
From: EWoodman@aol.com
Subject: Re: Anyone around for 3579 tonite?

Don't know if I can hear you way up here in NH but will fire up the old HQ-120X and listen on the hours for you tonight. Will have the 20W homebrew 807 rig on standby. (The homebrew is vfo controlled in case folks decide to run a touch low)

73 Eric K1YRV

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 12:02:24 -0700 (PDT)
From: Hy Chantz <chantz@well.com>
Subject: Re: High-Impedance Cans??

Hi gang, this list is great!

One question; receivers of personality all prefer high-impedance headphones; - - their advantages are endless (one can put back-to-back diodes for audio limiting, use them CAREFULLY for minor testing and troubleshooting, "reasonate" 'em for CW, etc...)

My venerable Trimm Featherweight seems to be feeling a bit lonely, and I'd like to mebbe buy one - but

Does anyone know if any manufacturer still makes high-impedance cans, or if one can get them NOS??

Hope to meet you all on 3579,5 in the next few weeks,

73 Hy W2HY

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 12:52:28 -0700 (MST)
From: Jack Meadows <jackmead@getnet.com>
Subject: Re: Anyone around for 3579 tonite?

I will give it a try as well!
Jack W7QQQ

On Wed, 22 Oct 1997, Ken Gordon wrote:

> On Wed, 22 Oct 1997 rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu wrote:
>
> > I will bite the ol' leaden bullete betwixt de ol' choppers an' offer to
> > be on the BA/GB QRG 3579 QTR 0000/0100/0200/0300/0400/0500Z tonite an see
> > if anyone can hear Ol' Grandma Hartley. I will lean on the dial a tad
> > to slip a few hundred cycles low to get out from the tv hash. Mebbies
> > me gets lucky, tonite, mebbie..... 73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP
>
> I'll try to see you there...
>

> Ken
>
>

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 16:44:36 -0400 (EDT)
From: rdkeys@csemail.cropsci.ncsu.edu
Subject: Re: High-Impedance Cans??

> Hi gang, this list is great!

TNX, I agree, there are a lot of great folks here with some fine ideas and yarns to spin, to boot. I learn a lot from these folks.

> One question; receivers of personality all prefer high-impedance headphones;

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

I like that! Well said!

> - their advantages are endless (one can put back-to-back diodes for audio
> limiting, use them CAREFULLY for minor testing and troubleshooting,
> "reasonate" 'em for CW, etc...)

Yup.....

> My venerable Trimm Featherweight seems to be feeling a bit lonely, and I'd
> like to mebbe buy one - but

I have a boxful of spare tin cans. I will see what I have and let you know. I may have a couple of Featherweights in there. I dunno how good the cords are, but they should be usable. If I have a spare set you are welcome. AES or one of the other suppliers should be able to get you cords if you need them.

> Does anyone know if any manufacturer still makes high-impedance cans, or if
> one can get them NOS??

Mostly they are a lost art form. I think you can still get lesser new ones from AES, but I dunno of anyone making GOOD hi-z tin cans anymore. It may be possible to special order some. I thought AES had some surplus tin cans listed at around 15 bucks a pop..... maybe someone can fill you in on that. If they still have them, that might be a good source.

The ones I find are all at hamfests. Good sets go for around 10 bucks mostly and lesser ones at 5 and below. Baldies and Brandes tend to 20 bucks a pair or sometimes more. I tend to buy too many headsets at hamfests (as the XYL can attest). I have a hard time walking past a set of lonely Baldies or Admirals.....(;+)}.....

You can get good telecoms quality 600 ohm headsets, but I don't personally like them on CW. They will work well though, where 2000 ohm cans usually are used, provided they are not put into too high a plate line if used directly in the plate circuits. I try to keep all mine at 48 volts and below when used directly. Cap or xfmr coupled is entirely different.

Most anything can be made to work. I find that the surplus audiovisual teaching headsets work quite well, if you like a broadbanded response on the average regenerator, although they don't have that ``ring'' of tin diaphragms.

One of the BEST tin cans I have ever used is the surplus Type 19 set tin cans. They have BIGGGGG diaphragms and LARGEEEEE magnets that give them a very good LF tin response. I would rate them better than Brandes Admirals and Baldies in that respect, but, not as sensitive as the Baldies.

> Hope to meet you all on 3579,5 in the next few weeks,

Great! What with?

> 73 Hy W2HY

Welcome aboard HY (a sine from the old days?). I am hoping a lot of the crew will be aboard the watch this winter. Sounds like they are getting itchy and a'chompin' at the bit..... good..... (:+)}..... I am trying to get folks interested in a December OT Firebottle Bash or somesuch, and drum up some qso's on the BA/GB QRG.

73/ZUT DE NA4G/Bob UP

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 20:51:58 +0000
From: Sandy W5TVW <ebjr@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: FS: National SW-54

I have an SW-54, working, re-capped, with original knobs, but rather ratty looking. (Needs a paint job!) The "National" logo is missing. Sell for \$25 plus shipping/packing.

73,
E. V. Sandy Blaize, W5TVW
"Boat Anchors collected, restored, repaired, traded and used!"
417 Ridgewood Drive
Metairie, LA., 70001

860 Hartley 'ECO' under construction**

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 16:01:35 -0500
From: w5hvv@aeneas.net (Roderick M. Fitz-Randolph)
Subject: Re: SAFETY AROUND BREADBOARD RIGS

>Ahoy,

> I use a 12vdc octal-plugged mercury wetted relay to key my Valiant.
>Driven by a wallwart, it's simple, cheap. I could french-kiss my bug is I
>ever was so inclined.
> --N1ZRR, Paul

>

ZUT

Paul (and others), I even went so far as to put a 12 volt reed relay to key the transmitter in the "Fierce 2-Watter" (117L7/M7) that is built on a plastic chassis. The 12 volts comes from the 165 VDC plate voltage that is knocked down to 12 VDC via 5 each 2.2K resistors in series (couldn't find an 11K resistor at 2 watts) and a 12 volt zener. The "Chassis" (aluminum strip underneath the plastic chassis) is at power ground potential (connected to the ground lug on the 3 wire power cord). So the highest voltage that you can reach above the chassis or at the key is 12 VDC. That is probably gilding the lilly but that's whut I done!!!! It's as cute as a bug in a rug.

Regards,

Rod, N5HV
w5hvv@aeneas.net

Date: Wed, 22 Oct 1997 22:58:54 -0500 (CDT)
From: Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu>
Subject: panel finishing (kinda)

I am trying to finish my "new" Hartley rig and am working on the front panel. I am using a piece of aluminum and don't want to paint it, however, it has some scratches on it and so doesn't look that great.

The question is, how does one make a kind of brushed finish? In other words, make thousands of scratches so the whole thing looks uniform?

UFO's are real! (It's the Air Force that does not exist)
E-mail broehrig@admin.aurora.edu 73 de Bob, K9EUI
CIS: Data / Telecom Aurora University, Aurora, IL
630-844-4898 Fax 630-844-5530

End of glowbugs V1 #141
